



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

12 JANUARY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – Sinaloa Cartel Drug Trafficker Sentenced to Prison

(U) Roberto Gallegos-Lechuga, 39, a drug trafficker and money launderer for the Sinaloa Cartel, was sentenced in federal court yesterday to 188-months in prison for supervising the smuggling of cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin from Mexico into the United States, and the smuggling of drug proceeds from the US to Mexico. Gallegos-Lechuga of Sinaloa, Mexico, was extradited from Mexico to San Diego in March of 2020. In July 2021, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit international money laundering. According to court documents, Gallegos-Lechuga coordinated the smuggling of large quantities of illegal narcotics through ports of entry in Southern California. Gallegos-Lechuga also supervised and managed couriers who smuggled hundreds-of-thousands of dollars in cash at a time, from the illegal sale of drugs, from the US to Mexico as part of the cartel's ongoing efforts to promote drug trafficking.

SOURCE: 11 January 2022, [DOJ](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Justice Department Creating Unit Focused on Domestic Terrorism

(U) Washington – The Justice Department is establishing a specialized unit focused on domestic terrorism, the department's top national security official told lawmakers yesterday as he described an "elevated" threat from violent extremists in the US. Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, testifying just days after the nation observed the one-year anniversary of the insurrection at the US Capitol, said the number of FBI investigations into suspected domestic violent extremists has more than doubled since the spring of 2020. "This includes both homegrown violent extremists inspired primarily by foreign terrorist organizations as well as domestic violent extremism," Jill Sanborn said, the executive assistant director in charge of the FBI's national security branch who testified alongside Olsen.

SOURCE: 11 January 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Indiana – State Troopers Locate \$2 Million Worth of Cocaine

(U) Putnam County – A state trooper in Putnam County found \$2 million worth of cocaine on Sunday after they pulled over a semi headed to Indianapolis, Indiana State Police (ISP) said in a release. ISP said the trooper detected "criminal indicators" while talking with the driver and called the Putnam County Sheriff's Department for a canine. The canine gave a positive alert for the odor of illegal drugs, which led authorities to search the semi tractor-trailer. The trooper discovered about 115-pounds of cocaine in the sleeper berth, state police said. ISP noted that the estimated street value of the cocaine is \$2 million. State police added that the driver, identified as 32-year-old Vikram Sandhu of Queens, New York, was traveling from Houston, Texas to Indianapolis.

SOURCE: 10 January 2022, [TriState](#)

(U) Utah – University Investigating Bomb Threat Against Black Cultural Center

(U) Salt Lake City – University of Utah Police are investigating a bomb threat made against the school's Black Cultural Center yesterday morning. The University said a crisis center call line in Hollywood, Calif.

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received a call alleging a bomb was placed in the cultural center in Fort Douglas. Police and bomb-sniffing dogs responded to the scene. They searched the building and confirmed that nobody was inside, and no bomb was found. The University said similar threats were made simultaneously against other colleges across the country.

SOURCE: 11 January 2022, [KJZZ](#)

(U) Washington – Neo-Nazi Sentenced for Threats Against Reporters, Activists

(U) Seattle – A Neo-Nazi who helped lead a campaign to threaten journalists and Jewish activists in three states was sentenced Tuesday to seven-years in federal prison, the longest prison term handed out to the participants in the conspiracy. A jury convicted Kaleb Cole in September of five felony counts related to the delivery of Swastika-laden posters to journalists and employees of the Anti-Defamation League in Washington state, Arizona, and Florida in early 2020. The posters warned: “You have been visited by your local Nazis,” “Your Actions have Consequences,” and “We are Watching.” Cole, most recently of Montgomery, Texas, was a leader of a hate group called Atomwaffen Division. He and four others faced charges including conspiracy, mailing threatening communications and interfering with a federally protected activity.

SOURCE: 11 January 2022, [The Bellingham Herald](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Somalia – Al-Shabaab Claims Responsibility for Car Bombing that Kills Eight

(U) Mogadishu – A car bomb exploded today outside the international airport in Somalia’s capital, Mogadishu, killing at least eight people and wounding nine others, a local doctor said. The al-Shabaab extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was targeting “white officials” passing by. Witnesses at the scene said a passing UN convoy appeared to be the target in the blast near a checkpoint leading to the heavily fortified airport, but the UN mission said there were no UN personnel or contractors in the convoy. The al-Qa’ida-linked al-Shabaab extremist group, which controls parts of Somalia, said via its Radio Andalus that a convoy of “white officials” had been the target. The extremist group often carries out bombings at high-profile locations in the capital.

SOURCE: 12 January 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) South Africa – Man Charged with Terrorism in Parliament Fire

(U) Cape Town – The suspect in a fire that gutted parts of South Africa's 138-year-old parliament building this month was charged with terrorism yesterday, appearing in court for case officials have described as an attack on the country's democracy. Zandile Mafe, 49, had already been charged with arson in connection with the fire that started on 2 January, but the additional charge of terrorism was added because he had also been caught with an explosive device, the prosecution said.

SOURCE: 11 January 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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